

LOUISIANA TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CRAWFISH INDUSTRY MEETING

USDA CONFERENCE ROOM

ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA

SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

RECORD OF AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Steve Carmichael, NRCS State Resource Conservationist, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m., and welcomed the meeting participants. (See attendance list attached.)

Leslie Michael, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, provided background information for this meeting to participants. The issue is the need for options and alternatives to work with the crawfish industry to address the resource concerns.

Tim Landreneau, NRCS Programs Specialist, gave a briefing on the EQIP program. EQIP is a financial incentives program that offsets implementation of conservation practices. It addresses resource concerns that are identified on landowner's property. Once concerns were addressed using one or more conservation practices that were approved by NRCS, the landowner would implement the practice and resolve concerns, EQIP would pay with a payment rate which is to offset the cost.

Stephen Minvielle, Louisiana Crawfish Association, stated that he appreciated the support received from NRCS. Surface water was suggested to be earmarked to be improved upon. Water management lifespan was discussed.

Tim Landreneau stated that the primary objective for EQIP is conservation benefit addressing the resource concerns. Production can be a side benefit.

Minvielle asked the committee if there was a viable solution. What is the economic value of the profit, providing the habitat for the birds that have lost their wetlands?

The committee discussed that wetland wildlife habitat management falls under a land management practice. Shallow water area management is an incentive payment for EQIP. Shallow water area management in WHIP requires an early flood date. EQIP does not allow for an annual payment.

Leslie Michael verbally reviewed the information with the committee.



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Minvielle asked in the EQIP ranking tool, does the EQIP practice use a tail water recovery system? Yes = 10. Landreneau will check the tail water ranking specifications. If it isn't, Landreneau suggested it be recommended to the STAC.

Next Meeting Date – No specific meeting date was set. Members will be notified when the date is scheduled.

11: 55 a.m. – Meeting Adjourned

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LIST OF ATTENDEES

Steve Carmichael, USDA-NRCS
Leslie Michael, USDA-NRCS
Cheryl Turbeville, USDA-NRCS
Willie Cooper, USDA-FSA
David Carnline, UDFA-FSA
Mike Olinde, LDWF
Stephen Minvielle, LCFA
Ron Harrell, LFBF
Michael Brasher, Gulf Coast Joint Venture
Bill Vermillion, Gulf Coast Joint Venture
Richard Johnson, LSU AgCenter
Jeff Durand, LRGA
Will Bernard, ULL
Carroll Cordes, USGS
Jay Huner, LA Wildlife Federation